

1

23 JOHN VIATA: [I am adamantly in favor of
24 Yucca Mountain, okay. I've been in the Las Vegas area for
25 11 years. And my father is a former president of the
1 American Nuclear Society. My father's the former president
2 of the Americans for Nuclear Independence. My father was
3 involved with Ronald Reagan as governor of California.
4 That tells you how old I am, with the San Onofre Nuclear
5 Power Plant. Back then I went to the meetings. I've been
6 involved in this waste disposal forever.

7 My dad's position, by the way, was he was
8 radiologically control director for International
9 Nuclear, which involved burying and transporting highly
10 toxic radioactive materials, which is exactly what this
11 is. And back then there were the crazies that came out
12 of the woodwork that said, "What happens if San Onofre
13 blows up?"

14 My dad would look at him and would tell them,
15 "If this chair right now today that I'm holding that you
16 can inspect, what are the chances of it blowing up and
17 blowing Las Vegas off the planet? It's the same odds,
18 sir." Like the doctor told us, the physicist, which my
19 dad was also a nuclear physicist, told you if you have
20 nuclear waste in one area and it's near a river and near
21 a fault, that's one level of risk.

22 This is another level of risk. You need to
23 balance this risk evaluation. With all due respect to
24 you folks and this other stuff, to compare a nuclear
25 explosion to a nuclear fusion rod that powers a power

1 plant that heats water to create steam is insane. It's
2 like saying we're going to talk about Yucca Mountain,
3 and you're going to talk about the Boston Red Sox draft
4 picks. I'm going to talk about baseball, and you're
5 going to talk about building a house.

6 It's insane to even bring that to the table,
7 folks. With all due respect, it's got nothing to do
8 with nothing, okay. Like this gentleman, I can turn
9 your opinion around in two minutes. Those comments are
10 insane, sir. Your opinion is insane.

11 This gentleman here at the end who spoke the
12 truth, sitting at the end who told you true facts was
13 wrong in one respect. He didn't tell you the whole
14 story. If a fission rod is 20 feet away from you, 25
15 feet away from you totally exposed and not in a
16 container, it has a degree of nuclear radiation coming
17 out which can be measured by a Geiger counter. If i
18 stood 30 feet away, there's no measurement, none, zero.
19 The stuff is not dangerous.

20 What you're hearing is what if it gets into
21 the water. There's no liquids being buried there. It's
22 all put into containers that are like cat litter and
23 that kind of a thing, so there's solids. There's no
24 liquid. It's being buried five miles into the mountain.
25 That's an insane length, that there is no way to measure
1 this.

2 The most dangerous, highest level of the
3 radiation is put in like little cocoons that are made of
4 steel and lead, and they cannot be penetrated. It's

5 impossible. You can sit there with your 10 bazooka guns
6 and try to blow one up. About even if it did, who
7 cares?

8 This argument of what happens if there's an
9 earthquake, so what? What, is the earth going to open
10 up and the stuff is going -- I guess in my opinion
11 further away. So now it was five miles in the mountain,
12 now it's another mile down there somewhere. So what?
13 Who cares? It's so far away, sir, you can't measure it.

14 What you have to do is this. You have to ask
15 the questions like you're doing, but you've got to be
16 smart. Don't listen to snake oil salesmen that tell you
17 if I stick my hand on that fusion rod, I'm going to be
18 dead. If I stick my head in a blast furnace, I'm going
19 to melt my head off. So don't stick your head in a
20 blast furnace. And don't walk up to a nuclear fission
21 rod, which you can't do anyway.

22 Those containers that are put in the trains
23 like the gentleman explained, trains that can't be blown
24 up. They can't. They've already tested. Even if they
25 were blown up, the stuff's in containers. They can't
1 blow those up. Even if they did, who gives a rat's ass?
2 If you're more than 100 -- who gives a rat's behind? If
3 they're in the containers that can't be blown up, in the
4 trains that can't be wrecked, okay, and they're on their
5 way to the repository.

6 The last point I want to make, ask yourself
7 where is this stuff now? Like the gentleman said, as we

8 sit here tonight, as we sit here tomorrow, that stuff is
9 being transported all across this great state of ours,
10 all over the U.S.

11 You say where is all this stuff now? Like
12 that gentleman told you, there's 27,000 tons of toxic
13 spent fuel rods in South Carolina sitting in somebody's
14 farm. This stuff is all over. You've got to ask
15 yourself is it safer to leave this highly toxic stuff
16 scattered all over the United States, or is it better if
17 we put it in one location and charge them 10 billion
18 years rent? That money goes to Nevada. I say we won
19 the lottery, and I say it's safe. It's not dangerous.]